

26 April 2010

Chem-Bio News

1. OARDC BREAKS GROUND FOR BIO-CONTAINMENT LAB: *"The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center [OARDC] broke ground this month on a highly secure bio-containment building on its Wooster campus that will enhance its nationally and internationally recognized research programs on infectious diseases of plants and animals - and further protect Ohio's \$90-plus billion agricultural industry."*

2. CLINTON SAYS NO TO EARLY END OF US NUKES IN EUROPE: *"U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday ruled out an early withdrawal of U.S. nuclear forces from Europe, telling a NATO meeting that any reductions should be tied to a nuclear pullback by Russia, which has far more of the weapons in range of European targets."*

3. UKRAINE TO RECEIVE MOBILE RADIATION DETECTION VEHICLE: *"IAEA, Finland, Sweden help Ukraine Step Up Nuclear Security Ahead of UEFA EURO 2012."*

4. OAK RIDGE PREPS TO DISMANTLE BOMBS: *"Steven Wyatt, a federal spokesman at the Y-12 National Security Complex, confirmed that components from B53 bombs are expected to begin arriving in late 2011."*

Chem-DeMil News

1. DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT - MUSTARD OPERATIONS MOVE FORWARD: *"Since beginning mustard operations in August 2006, more than 75 percent of DCD's stockpile of mustard agent-filled munitions have been destroyed at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF)."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

OARDC BREAKS GROUND FOR BIO-CONTAINMENT LAB

Ohio Farmer
April 23, 2010

"The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center broke ground this month on a highly secure bio-containment building on its Wooster campus that will enhance its nationally and internationally recognized research programs on infectious diseases of plants and animals - and further protect Ohio's \$90-plus billion agricultural industry."

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"The \$22.2 million Plant and Animal Agrosecurity Research facility will enable OARDC scientists to work with infectious agents classified by federal standards at the BSL-3 (biosafety level 3) and BSL-3 Ag safety levels. PAAR will be the first facility in Ohio and one of only two nationally with capacity for both plant and animal research at such safety levels. Construction is expected to be completed in summer 2012.

In addition to two BSL-3 labs, the PAAR facility will include four BSL-3 Ag isolation rooms, which are needed to work with large animals, such as cows. Under federal guidelines, all facilities handling potentially infectious agents must adhere to strict procedures to ensure containment of these pathogens. Depending on the ease with which microorganisms can be transmitted, they are classified as BSL-1, BSL-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4, with BSL-4 carrying the highest risk of infection.

Ohio State operates several BSL-3 labs on its Columbus campus, but this is the first to be built on the Wooster campus — and the first BSL-3 Ag lab at the university with capacity for work with livestock.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://ohiofarmer.com/story.aspx/oardc/breaks/ground/for/biocontainment/lab/9/37556>

[Return to Top](#)

CLINTON SAYS NO TO EARLY END OF US NUKES IN EUROPE

By Robert Burns

Associated Press on Google News

April 23, 2010

“U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday ruled out an early withdrawal of U.S. nuclear forces from Europe, telling a NATO meeting that any reductions should be tied to a nuclear pullback by Russia, which has far more of the weapons in range of European targets.

No such negotiation with Russia is in the offing, and Moscow has shown little interest thus far in bargaining away its tactical nuclear arms.

Clinton also said the Obama administration wants NATO to accept missile defense as a core mission of the alliance, making it part of a broader effort to combat the dangers posed by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and the missiles that delivery them. She said missile defense and nuclear weapons are complementary means of deterring an attack on the U.S. and its alliance partners.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jcvyk85-txa-h8FQq9am834ajLnwD9F8A8800>

[Return to Top](#)

UKRAINE TO RECEIVE MOBILE RADIATION DETECTION VEHICLE

International Atomic Energy Agency News Release

April 21, 2010

“IAEA, Finland, Sweden help Ukraine Step Up Nuclear Security Ahead of UEFA EURO 2012.”

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: Today, a state-of-the-art mobile radiation detection unit, destined for Ukraine, was handed over to the IAEA at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

The Sophisticated On-Site Nuclide Identification (SONNI) vehicle is to be used to strengthen the country’s nuclear security efforts prior to the UEFA EURO 2012 European football championship. The van, which costs around half a million Euros, was donated by Finland and Sweden.

The IAEA, as part of its nuclear security programme, is facilitating the transfer of the unit to Ukraine. In addition, it will work with experts from Finland to provide training on how to operate the vehicle.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2010/sonnivan.html>

[Return to Top](#)

OAK RIDGE PREPS TO DISMANTLE BOMBS

By Frank Munger

Knoxville News

April 25, 2010

“Steven Wyatt, a federal spokesman at the Y-12 National Security Complex, confirmed that components from B53 bombs are expected to begin arriving in late 2011.

The B53 was introduced into the U.S. nuclear arsenal in 1962 and was retired in 1997 after playing a key role in Cold War deterrence. Each bomb weighs about 10,000 pounds and is the size of a minivan, with an explosive yield reported to be in the range of 9 megatons of TNT - several hundred times that of the A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

"We are already gearing up for this work, which will involve the dismantlement of the secondary that is part of this nuclear weapons system," Wyatt said in an e-mail response to questions.

Y-12 typically dismantles the same components that it built originally, and the Oak Ridge plant specializes in so-called secondaries - the second stage of thermonuclear weapons made with highly enriched uranium and other materials."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/apr/25/y-12-to-dismantle-nukes/>
[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT - MUSTARD OPERATIONS MOVE FORWARD

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Monthly Update
April 22, 2010

“Since beginning mustard operations in August 2006, more than 75 percent of DCD’s stockpile of mustard agent-filled munitions have been destroyed at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

While workers have been processing mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars since January, they recently reverted back to processing bulk containers for a short period. This not only allowed workers to maintain their proficiency in bulk container processing, but it also provided necessary time to perform maintenance on the demil machines in preparation for the final run of mortars.

Mortar operations are expected to be complete this summer and the facility will go back to processing bulk containers. TOCDF mustard operations are expected to wrap up in spring 2011.

But that’s not all. More than 300 mustard agent-filled munitions will be destroyed using an Explosive Destruction Technology called the DAVINCH, a controlled detonation system developed for chemical weapons destruction. These munitions include those that have previously leaked and have been safely stored in overpack containers, and “reject” munitions— those that are badly deteriorated and/or have stuck explosive components.

DCD employees and a special U.S. Army technical team have completed x-raying the over-packed projectiles and mortars. The x-rays give URS sub-contractor Versar, Inc. accurate images showing the location of the munitions and any explosive components, providing a better understanding of the over-packed munitions as they prepare for DAVINCH operations.

Demonstration tests have been performed in Lake Kanda, Japan to show the DAVINCH system’s capability of safely destroying the overpacked munitions.

“The demonstration tests allowed us to gain a better understanding of the equipment, destruction process and overall safe operations of the system,” said TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba, who

recently traveled to Japan with other DCD/TOCDF personnel to witness the tests.

The detonation chamber will be located in DCD's Area 10. Environmental permitting activities are underway and site preparation will begin this summer. Following state approval, DAVINCH operations are expected to begin in January 2010."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?DocID=003682775>
[Return to Top](#)

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